

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COPY PROTECTING VIDEO CONTENT
AND PRODUCING A REDUCED QUALITY REPRODUCTION OF VIDEO
CONTENT FOR PERSONAL USE**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A copy protection apparatus is disclosed for processing a video signal to produce normal quality video for display on a display device and so as to inhibit the making of high quality reproductions therefrom while allowing lower quality reproductions to be made. The apparatus includes a first signal modification element that alters a normal quality video signal to produce a first modified signal such that, if reproduced, an unusable video copy is produced, and wherein the first modified video signal, when output to a display device is viewable as normal quality video on the display device. The apparatus further includes a second signal modification element that degrades the video signal to produce a second video signal of reduced quality. This reduced quality signal can be output to a reproduction device for copying.